

Remarks

Claims 1-3 and 5-29 remain pending. Claims 1, 13, 19, and 23 have been amended herein. No new matter is believed added.

Claims 1-3, and 5-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Douik et al. (US 6,012,152), hereafter "Douik," in view of Brobst et al. (US 5,893,106), hereafter "Brobst." This rejection is defective because the combination of Douik and Brobst fails to teach or suggest each and every feature set forth in the claims as required by 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Independent claim 1 includes, among other features, a "fourth knowledge base that includes clouds, wherein each cloud describes a set of all possible configurations that can fulfill a predetermined function that the cloud represents." Independent claims 13, 19, and 23 include similar features. In the above-referenced Office Action, the Examiner admits that Douik fails to teach or suggest this feature. In particular, the Examiner states on page 2 of the Office Action that "Douik doesn't explicitly disclose a fourth knowledge base wherein each cloud describes a set of possible configurations that can fulfill a predetermined function." In order to overcome this glaring deficiency of Douik, the Examiner relies on the teachings of Brobst. Specifically, the Examiner alleges that "Brobst, discloses in an analogous art a cloud configuration describing the predetermined functions" (FIG. 5). To support the combination of Douik and Brobst, the Examiner alleges that "it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Douik and Brobst because, it 'permits program developers to more quickly develop and more easily maintain server programs (Brobst, 2:20 - 23)'." Applicant disagrees with the Examiner's analysis and conclusion.

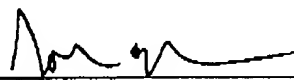
Brobst does not teach or suggest a "fourth knowledge base that includes clouds, wherein each cloud describes a set of all possible configurations that can fulfill a predetermined function that the cloud represents." On the contrary, FIG. 5 of Brobst is merely an object-oriented programming "class" diagram representing framework objects with object "clouds." As known in the art, in object-oriented programming, a class describes the rules by which objects behave; these objects are referred to as "instances" of that class. A class specifies the structure of data which each instance contains as well as the methods (functions) which manipulate the data of the object. Clearly, therefore, each "cloud" in FIG. 5 of Brobst does not describe a set of all possible configurations that can fulfill a predetermined function that the cloud represents as set forth in claim 1.

Accordingly, since Douik and Brobst, taken alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest each and every feature set forth in the claims, Applicant submits that claims 1-3 and 5-29 are allowable.

If the Examiner believes that anything further is necessary to place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 7/12/05

  
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